



ל'פ"ה

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The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of Judaica Numismatica. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of THE SHEKEL, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) \$2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
The President's Message	2
The Editor's Page	3
A Holocaust Chronology: 1933-1945	4
Prisoner of War Monies and Medals . . . by Arlie S. Slabaugh (Authorized Excerpts from 1966 Edition)	6
Bolzano Concentration Camp . . . by Dr. Gaston Söllner, Switzerland . . .	17
The Star of David on Camp Notes . . . by Yasha Beresiner, England . . .	20
The Brabag Notes . . . by David Atsmony, Israel	23
The Scrip Money of the Netherlands Concentration Camps . . . by Dr. Alan York	24
Theresienstadt's Bleak Bank Note Story . . . by Evzen Sknouril, Czechoslovakia	27
Peter Kien: He Created the Moses Kronen, courtesy Dr. Robert S. Webber .	34
"The Ghetto is Fighting" Banknote of Poland . . . by Dr. Alan York . . .	35
More on World War II Ghetto Money . . . by Dr. Henry Fenigstein, Canada	38
Ghetto Money of the Nazi Holocaust . . . by Steven A. Feller and Barbara Feller	41
Operation Bernhard . . . by Morty Zerder	46
The Mauthausen Death Camp and Its Paper Money . . . by Dr. Alan York . .	47
Directory of Known Issues of Concentration Camp and Displaced Persons Centers of World War II . . . by George Gilbert	51

ADDITIONAL SHEKEL ARTICLES OF THE PAST

Lodz Ghetto Money . . . by Louis Sarakoff	Vol. I, No. 3
The Theresienstadt Notes . . . by Jack H. Fisher	Vol. III, No. 2
Jewish Banknotes of Postwar Europe . . . by Dr. Samuel Halperin	Vol. V, No. 4
The Ghetto Litzmannstadt and Its Money . . . by David Atsmony, Israel	Vol. XII, No. 3
The Inside Story of the 10 Pfennig Coin from the Ghetto Litzmannstadt by Andrzej Piwowarczyk, Poland	Vol. XII, No. 3

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Morris Bram



Dear Friends,

The American Israel Numismatic Association which sponsors this publication is a chartered, non-profit educational association of individuals who share a love for Israel numismatics and a desire to assist the growth and well-being of the State of Israel, contributing as Americans to their hobby and their social-cultural beliefs.

During the past fifteen years, this publication has had a number of outstanding issues. I remember with great joy the birth of the very first issue of *The Shekel* which reached out to thousands of coin collectors and helped us to find each other.

I remember the *Tenth Anniversary* issue which was a milestone in our growth for by that time we had members in half of the United States and in many countries abroad.

There has never been an issue like this one. It reflects an AINA desire to provide in one place all of the scholarship and illustrations that document for those who will follow us the tragedy of those terrible years of 1939 to 1945.

Holocaust victims will never be forgotten and the battle never abandoned against the "darker side of human nature." We are reminded we must be sensitive to the history of our people whose country was reborn from the ashes of the Holocaust, a country that rightfully never takes its security for granted. We must testify to the Holocaust in order to reaffirm our belief in human life and the strength of values.

Forty years after the event, the tangible numismatic evidence has already become so scarce that only a few collectors can hold these despicable remnants of Man's inhumanity to Man. Yet the stories of these tragic monies and receipts must be told. I am proud that our organization has the will to publish this material so that the world does not forget.

We are trying to tell the story because we believe if we tell the story, we shall save the world.

I wish to acknowledge my appreciation to George Gilbert, our Editor, and to our correspondents throughout the world, too numerous to mention individually, for their interest and contributions.

SHALOM,

Morris

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

George Gilbert



IN APPRECIATION

Being buried in these pages during the past three months has been a painful squirming through a slimy cave of human horrors.

My first guide, Morty Zerder showed me how the cave had tunnels in France, Italy, Holland, Austria and was not just in the more publicized slaughterhouses of Germany and Poland.

Guide Dr. Alan York let me handle Reichmarks paid to slave factory workers who were charged back for the time they were not on the assembly line.

I looked for the first time at the actual ticket entitling a Wehrmacht soldier entry to a brothel set up in a onetime Polish *Talmud Torah* and staffed by handpicked Jewish women.

I handled camp money printed by the Italian Resistance and smuggled with bribed guards into an Italian camp.

I touched notes long ago dignified by trembling fingers in Dachau, Buchenwald, Auschwitz. . .

Encouraged by Morris Bram, Harry Flower, Sidney L. Olson and Stanley Yulish, I wrote, called and mailed pleas for assistance to the leaders of the numismatic world. Contributors in England, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Israel and Canada authorized reprint of their personal memoirs and scholarship.

I thank Robert S. Webber who uncovered the material on Peter Kien and the historic photograph of actual money distribution.

A number of AINA members bear the telltale tattoos. Some of them recently participated in the reunion of Holocaust Survivors in Jerusalem. This issue in part is dedicated to honoring them for their suffering but more to memorialize the dead so that this numismatic evidence stays on long after we are all gone.

I wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the publishers and editors of the worldwide numismatic press without whose cooperation this anthology and index could not have been organized.

George Gilbert
LM #60, AINA

HOLOCAUST

CHRONOLOGY: 1933-1945

1933

March 23: First concentration camp, Dachau, is established

April 1: Nazis proclaim a general boycott of Jewish-owned businesses

April 7: Jews dismissed from civil service and denied admission to bar

May 10: Burning of books by Jews and opponents of Nazism

1935

Summer: *Juden Verboten* (no Jews) signs increase in number outside town, villages, restaurants and stores

September, 15: Reichstag passes anti-Semitic "Nuremberg Laws"

1937

July 16: Buchenwald concentration camp opens

1938

October 5: Passports of Jews are marked with the letter "J"

November 9: *Kristallnacht* (Night of Broken Glass), anti-Semitic riots in Germany and Austria, synagogues are destroyed, shops are looted

November 15: Jewish children are expelled from German schools

1939

October 12: First deportation of Jews from Austria and Moravia to Poland

November 23: Wearing of *Judenstern* (Jewish six-pointed Star of David) is made compulsory throughout occupied Poland

1940

April 30: Ghetto at Lodz, Poland, is sealed off

November 15: Warsaw Ghetto is sealed off

1941

September 15: Wearing of the Jewish star is decreed throughout the Greater Reich



A favorite German occupation was to cut or pluck the beard and sidelocks of Orthodox Jews in public before a jeering crowd.

September 23: First experiments with gassing are made at Auschwitz
October 23: Massacre in Odessa — 34,000 dead
October 28: Massacre in Kiev — 34,000 dead
November 6: Massacre in Povno — 15,000 dead
December 8: Chalko extermination camp on the Ner River in Poland is opened
December 8: Massacre in Riga — 27,000 dead
December 22: Massacre in Vilna — 32,000 dead



Female concentration camp inmate.

1942

January 21: Unified resistance organization is established in Vilna Ghetto. Jewish resistance groups expand in number throughout Eastern Europe

June 1: Treblinka death camp opens. Wearing of the Jewish star is decreed in Nazi-occupied France and Holland

July 22: 300,000 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto are deported to Treblinka

1943

January 18: Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto launch uprising against Nazi deportations. Street fighting lasts for four days

April 19: Revolt of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto begins. Fighting continues for weeks

May 16: Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto

August 2: Revolt at Treblinka death camp

August 16: Revolt in Bialystok Ghetto

September 23: Liquidation of the Vilna Ghetto



Children at Auschwitz.

1944

May 15-June 8: 476,000 Jews are shipped from Hungary to Auschwitz

July 24: Soviet troops liberate Maidanek death camp

1945

April 11: American troops liberate Buchenwald death camp

August 15: Japan surrenders unconditionally. End of World War II.



Taken from The Record, "The Holocaust in History, 1933-1945" published by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in cooperation with The National Council for the Social Studies.

EXCERPTS FROM

PRISONER OF WAR MONIES AND MEDALS

by Arlie R. Slabaugh

Nazi
military
camp
scrip.



Buchenwald.

Oranienburg.



Camp money, photos courtesy Morty Zerder.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

During World War II the words "Concentration camp" became words of fear. Unlike prisoner of war camps and internment camps which gave at least some cognizance to the rules of war, concentration camps were slave labor and death camps, with the emphasis on death.

Germany and German-occupied Countries

A German, if he was anti-Nazi, could land in a concentration camp as well as anyone else, caught in the Gestapo's relentless search for enemies of the government. Other than political prisoners the bulk of the concentration camp inmates were races that Hitler seemed determined

to eradicate, such as the Jews and the Poles.

Millions died in these camps, the result of starvation, brutality, shooting or gassing. Their slave labor while alive wasn't enough; when dead the hair and gold teeth fillings were removed as strategic materials for Germany. I mention this only as a tiny hint of the horrors perpetuated in these camps. Even the Germans in charge of the camps were sometimes driven mad.

Suggested reading: "The Final Solution: The Attempt to Exterminate the Jews of Europe, 1939-1945," by Gerald Reitlinger, New York, 1953; "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," by William L. Shirer, New York, 1960; "The Theory and Practice of Hell," by Eugen Kogan, New York, 1951; "The Gestapo, a History of Horror," by Jacques Delarue (English edition, New York, 1964-1965).

There were thirty some major concentration camps (not to be confused with prisoner of war camps) plus smaller and temporary camps (about 250 in all including occupied countries). Only those known to have issued currency are listed. Some camps used the notes of other camps.

Amersfoort (Netherlands). This camp was for political prisoners.

10 and 25 Cent (Rare); 1 2½ Gulden. Dated Jan. 1, 1944. Other types are said to exist.

Auschwitz (Oswiecim, Poland). This camp and those of Chelmno, Treblinka, Belsec and Sibibor, all in Poland, were the major Vernichtungslager, or extermination camps. The largest was Auschwitz, founded in 1940, at first for Polish political prisoners and later for any concentration camp inmates they wished to work to exhaustion in the I.G. Farben synthetic coal-oil and rubber plant and Krupp fuse plant that were built there, and then gas them to death in one of the four huge gas chambers located at this camp.

The gas chambers at Auschwitz could accomodate as many as 2,000 persons at one time, and eventually were gassing as many as 6,000 a day. Two and a half million people were gassed here and another half million died from other causes. The camps did not look frightful, the flowers and lawns were neatly kept, the gas houses bore signs reading "Baths." The unsuspecting victims were told to strip and go into the houses for bath and delousing as usual in such



Buchenwald notes, photos courtesy Morty Zerder.

camps. Not only that but it was to the accompaniment of gay music. Once inside, those about to be exterminated found that not only was it too crowded for a bath, but that the doors had been sealed shut, and no water was coming from the ceiling pipes. Instead cyanide or prussic acid crystals were dropped from a small roof opening. After a half hour and the screaming had stopped the gas was pumped out, the doors opened, and men in gas masks pried the bodies apart, removed any gold and sent the bodies to specially built crematoria complete with electric hoists for moving the corpses to the furnaces. It was the smell from the wholesale use of these crematoria that informed people living in the area that something was amiss at an otherwise peaceful looking prison camp. The ashes were later dumped in the river although it has been stated that some were sold as fertilizer.



Waffen-SS, Commandant of Camp A. Premium note. (Given in return for performing a certain amount of work, that is, an award or premium.) Undated. 50 Reichspfennig. Very rare.

50 Reichspfennig, yellow; 1 Reichmark. With printer's imprint, 8.44/500.000 (meaning August, 1944, 500,000 printed.) Very rare.

Various stamp marks on reverse. Notes of Buna-Camp also exist.

Suggested reading: *"I Cannot Forgive,"* by Rudolf Vrba and Alan Besic, New York, 1964. The personal story of one who survived Auschwitz.

Buchenwald (Thuringia). Ilse Koch, wife of the commandant at Buchenwald had a liking for lamp shades made from tattooed human skin. A daughter of the King and Queen of Italy died here, proving that position meant nothing in the concentration camps.

S.S. Standort-Kantine. Undated. M in RM bold. 0.50 Reichsmark, 1 Reichsmark ("1" in two varieties), 2 Reichsmark, 3 Reichsmark.

M in RM more spread out. 0.50, 1 (in two varieties of "1"), 2, 3 Reichsmark.

With word "Aussenkommando" which is slanting. 0.50, 1, 2 Reichsmark.

As preceding, with 2-line black rubber stamp "SS-Ko. Rottleberode / A 5." 0.50, 1, 2 Reichsmark.

As before, but 1-line stamp without "A 5." 0.50, 1, 2 Reichsmark.

Same, but stamped in red. 0.50. 1, 2 Reichsmark.

Same, but stamped in purple. 0.50, 1, 2 Reichsmark.

Similar, but instead of previous stamp, has 1-line stamp "SS-Arbeitskommando A 6." 1 Reichsmark (others?)

The stamp "Schwerte" (Ruhr) is said to be a fake stamp. This has not been definitely ascertained.

Also known "K.L. BU" 0.50, 1 and 3 Reichsmark and "KL. BU" 1 and 3 Reichsmark. Locality not known but tentatively identified as Konzentrationslager Buchenwald. Rare. (Probably 0.50, 1, 2 and 3 Reichsmark were made of both.)

Dachau (Bavaria). One of the more infamous camps. Used as a training camp in methods of torture and murder. Eminent and well known persons as Dr. Schuschnigg, Chancellor when Germany absorbed Austria, Leon Blum, former French Premier, Dr. Schacht, former Reichsbank President and economic wizard who helped bring Hitler to power (but later conspired against him) were being held here when World War II ended. After the war the camp was used for temporary housing of refugees. The gas chambers were preserved as a grim reminder to future generations.

Kantinenverwaltung Concentration Camp D. 3/K. Handwritten value, number and stamp. Feb. 28, 1944. 1 Reichsmark.

Similar but without date. 2 Reichsmark.

Printed with X.44 (meaning Oct. 1944). 0.50 Reichsmark, red; 1 Reichsmark, green; 3 Reichsmark, green. These notes come with various rubber stampings and dates.

(As late as 21 April 1945 which must be one of the last concentration camp notes issued.)

Flossenburg (Bavaria). Women's concentration camp at Graslitz used these notes also. Undated.



Flossenburg note, photo courtesy Morty Zerder

50 Pfg. red (rare); 1 Reichsmark, yellow; 1 Reichsmark, blue. 1 Reichsmark, green. Two varieties, wide and narrow "a" in "Prämienscheine."

France. There were quite a number of concentration camps run by the Vichy collaborationist government under Petain. They were hardly less vicious than the German camps. They not only held French anti-Nazis—Germans and Austrians that had fled to France in pre-war days were rounded up and placed in these camps. The French camps consisted of ordinary camps (Camp ordinaire), the usual type, penal camps for foreigners suspected of political intrigue, and prestataire camps for foreigners who had enlisted as volunteers in the French army before it surrendered, and for other favored persons. There were also camps for Jews. Conditions in the prestataire camps were somewhat better but none were really good due to the overcrowding, lack of facilities, and filth. Ostensibly, the prestataire camps came closest to being actual prisoner of war camps, although they held soldiers who had fought for France rather than the enemy.

Grine (Norway). Concentration camp for political prisoners. Notes were issued. All very rare. Other concentration camps were estab-

lished at Ulve Hakadal and Bredtvedt (near Oslo) following the invasion of Norway Germany in 1940. Whether these camps also issued currency is not known. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months were shipped to Germany as the Norwegian camps held only a couple thousand prisoners each and were soon overcrowded.

Gross-Rosen (Silesia). Premium note. Undated.

0.50 Reichsmark (rare); 1 Reichsmark.

Haselhorst-Nord (Berlin-Haselhorst). Premium note.

0.50, 1 Reichsmark. Rare.

Herzogenbusch (Netherlands) 1.XI.1943, 10 and 25 Cent. Very rare. (Editor: also 1, 2, 2½ and 10 G.)

Litzmannstadt (Lodz, Poland). This camp was for Jews of the part of Poland that had been absorbed into the Third Reich, and distinguished Jews from other countries occupied by Germany. Here they made cloth in the textile mills. The area was

closed off as a Ghetto on May 1, 1940. About 300,000 were held here at one time or another during World War II. Most of them later perished in the death camps of Kulm (Chelmno) and Auschwitz (Oswiecim). When the war ended in 1945, 887 Jews remained.

The Jews were not allowed to possess money and were required to turn in their Polish and German banknotes. In return they were given receipts (Quittungen), which was in reality a camp money, bearing all the appearances of money, and explains the word "Quittung" on the paper currency. All notes bear the Star of David and Menora and are printed in color. They are dated May 15, 1940.

50 Pfennig, 1, 2, 5, 10 Mark. Unwatermarked.

20 Mark, unwatermarked.

10, 20, 50 Mark, watermarked.

These notes are often found in worn condition. Forgeries exist of these notes which are canceled with red pencil or perforated.



Varieties of Lodz notes, photo courtesy Morty Zerder.



Photo courtesy Morty Zerder.
(Note oak leaves under '10'.

No provision was made for smaller denominations, so in 1942, M. Rumkowski (whose signature appears on the notes) asked Hans Biebow, head of the Ghetto, that a Jewish mint be established to provide coins. Especially needed was a 10-pfennig coin. The first designs of this denomination were not acceptable (the small number of pieces existing with the denomination side bearing a "10" with oak leaves below similar to the German 10 Pfennig in zinc is a pattern unacceptable to the Germans because of its combination of German and Jewish design) but a later design with Star of David in center bearing date 1942, and inscription "Der Aelteste der Juden in Litzmannstadt" (The Oldest of the Jews in Litzmannstadt) on obverse and "Quittung uber 10 Pfennig" on reverse was accepted and coinage began in the fall of 1942.



Photo courtesy Morty Zerder
5 Mark 1943.

By December 10, 100,000 of these coins were delivered, but production probably slackened off after that due to a severe inflation of the following year. As there was no other fuel,

these coins were then used to kindle fires since they were made from a magnesium alloy which had been salvaged from destroyed Nazi planes (very flammable, used in fireworks; also very light weight for airplanes when combined with aluminum). For this reason, most were probably destroyed since it is now very scarce.

The coins as follows: 10 Pfennig pattern (described above), 10 Pfennig regular issue (described above), 5 Mark 1943 (made after the inflation began in the camp and lower denominations became worthless) magnesium-aluminum; 5 Mark 1943, aluminum; 10 Mark 1943, magnesium-aluminum; 10 Mark 1943, aluminum; 10 Mark, aluminum, similar but different die; 20 Mark 1943, aluminum.

Until the 10 Pfennig coins were ready, temporary 10 Pfennig paper notes were used from June until the end of the year during 1942 when they were exchanged for coins. They are dated April 17, 1942 and exist in slightly different varieties. A similar note was also printed with date of May 15, 1944. All are rare. Beware of forgeries.

The 5 and 10 Mark have been copied or restruck. Pieces made in zinc or other metals without special marking are more difficult to distinguish, therefore, any unusual offering of these coins which are very seldom obtainable, should be authenticated.

Mauthausen (Austria). This camp was established in 1938 for Austrians (Hitler had just occupied Austria and anti-Nazis were rounded up) and was later used for others as well. Some prisoners of war were also

held here or executed. Premium notes.

0.50 Reichsmark, undated. Also same with printer's imprint 8.44/500.000 stamped Oct. 1, 1944.

1 Reichsmark, with printers imprint 8.44/500.000.

1, 2 and 5 Reichsmark, with printers imprint ½-4-43. These bear stamp marks of the S.S. and various dates. All are rare.

Neuengamme (Hamburg). Premium note. Undated.

0.50, 1 Reichsmark, with printer's imprint E/0606.

Similar, 1 Reichsmark, with printer's imprint 10.000 10.43E/0606. All very rare.

Nordhausen (Thuringia). Workers Camp Mittelbau. (Mitteldeutsche Baugesellschaft.) Undated. Various serial letters.

0.01 Reichsmark, 0.50 Reichsmark, 1 Reichsmark, 2 Reichsmark, 5 Reichsmark, 10 Reichsmark (Rare).

Oranienburg (Brandenburg). One of the first Nazi concentration camps. Later it was succeeded by the Sachsenhausen camp which was established near Oranienburg. This camp was primarily for German political prisoners during the 1930's when the Nazis were eliminating all opposition.

5, 10, 50 Pfg., 1 Mark. Watermarked Ad. Hausmann-Helldunkelmuster. Undated (1933).

1, 2 Reichsmark. Concentration Camp Ernst Heinkel A.G. Werk Oranienburg. Undated. Rare.

Ravensbruck (Mecklenburg). This concentration camp was for women.

Premium notes.

0.50 Reichsmark. Undated.

0.50 Reichsmark. Undated. Deutsche Textil- u. Bekleidungswerke G.m.b.H. Two varieties.

0.50 and 1 Reichsmark. Stamped with round seal "Frauen Konzentrazionslager Ravenbrück Verwaltung."

1 Reichsmark. Yellow cardboard. Rubber stamped with triangle in green ink reading "K.L. Ravenbrück Kantine-Verwaltung Prämiengutscheine."

Sachsenhausen (Near Berlin). It was here that "Operation Bernhard," the greatest counterfeiting scheme in history, was carried out. Originated by Alfred H. Naujocks of the Nazi SS, in 1940, he got the approval of Reinhard Heydrich to counterfeit Bank of England notes. It was not until August, 1942 that the paper, watermarks and other problems were finally solved. Once that was done to perfection, the Gestapo under Heinrich Himmler cleared Barracks 19 in the Sachsenhausen camp of its inmates and put it under SS "Deathhead" guards. Regular guards were forbidden to enter, and any of the barrack guards even hinting what went on inside were to be sent to the Russian front immediately. Their duty was to guard the Jews brought in from various camps, selected because of some needed ability, to prepare the counterfeit plates and printed the notes.

Major Friedrich Walter Bernhard Kruger, who had been head of the Gestapo department that forged passports, was brought in to head the new operation. He told the inmates that they would receive excellent rations, newspapers, even be allowed to have games. And, when the war was over and won, they would live in a separate Jewish world doing

special work for the Aryan government. All of these promises were kept except the last.

The counterfeit British pounds were widely distributed in neutral countries and North Africa, being exchanged for other currencies, diamonds and gold. On April 23, 1943

the Bank of England stopped issuing banknotes of ten-pound and higher denominations, and began withdrawing them. On May 1, 1945, as the war with Germany was ending, the notes ceased to be legal tender, else a deluge of counterfeits held in Europe might break the bank. At that time the pound had an exchange value of \$2.80, so larger denominations were not likely to be found to a great extent among the poorer classes where their loss would be most felt.

Premium notes, undated.

0.50 Reichsmark with printer's imprint 6.43.999 000.

1 Reichsmark, dark blue. Printer's imprint 7.44 500 000.

1 Reichsmark, light blue. Similar.

Notes have a 6 or 8 pointed star after serial number.

Stutthof (Near Ebling, West Prussia). Premium notes. Undated.

50 Pfg. Printer's imprint Wehrkreisdrukeri XX 3/44 5000. Very rare.

1 Reichsmark. Printer's imprint, Wehrkreisdrukeri XX 3/44 10.000. Very rare.

Theresienstadt (Bohemia). Originally a "privileged" ghetto, especially for other Jews and those who had held high office, in the end it proved no more privileged than the rest. About 100,000 were held here in

1942, but by the end of the war this number had been reduced to around 13,000. When Heydrich of the Gestapo was killed, part of the German reprisals included shipping 3,000 Jews from this camp to Poland for extermination. There were no mass executions in this camp but there were many deaths from malnutrition and disease. This being something of a "show" camp to prove their humane treatment of the Jews, they had their own homes within the camp and various public facilities. They also had limited self government under Nazi control. Jakob Edelstein was Chief Elder when he signed the notes. As with the Litzmannstadt notes, these were designated as Quitungen or receipts rather than actual money since those in the camp were forced to exchange German or other currency for these receipts. The receipts were called "Moses Crowns" because they depict Moses with the Ten Commandments (one of which is "Thou shalt not kill.") and are in kronen. It has been stated that 14 million kronen were issued. They are generally available in Fine to Unc. condition. The notes which are in different colors bear various serial letters, and are dated January 1, 1943.

1, 2, 5 and 10 Kronen. Unwatermarked paper.

20, 50 and 100 Kronen. Watermarked paper.

Vught (Netherlands). Five denominations are reported to have been issued from this camp. (Editor: see Herzogenbusch, page 10.)

Westerbork (Netherlands). Notes bear control letters of AA, BB or CC. Dated February 15, 1944. Printed in color.

CAMPS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

War and its aftermath brings with it thousands of uprooted persons who either cannot return to their homes or else have no desire to return because of changes in government or simply because through war's destruction they have no home left to return to and decide to start anew elsewhere. Much of America has been populated by refugees from European wars such as the Revolutions of 1848.

Prior to World War II refugees with no place to go were often held in internment camps or were provided for by the Red Cross. It was after World War II that the term "displaced person" came into general use, and camps for their use were established until they could be relocated. In this connection a number of camps issued special currency for the use of displaced persons (DP's) and it is these issues that will be listed here.

A great number of the refugees were Jews that had survived Nazi dominated Europe and now wished to migrate to Israel, where the British mandate ended in 1948. Other refugees wished to enter the United States. As the number was too great under our normal immigration quotas, a Displaced Persons Bill was passed by Congress and enacted on June 25, 1948 which admitted 205,000 European displaced persons including 3,000 orphans. This was supplemented on August 7, 1953 by the Refugee Immigration Act which allowed 214,000 refugees to enter the United States.

Another agency that came to the aid of the refugees was the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) which was established in November, 1943 and operated in 39 countries, distribut-

ing about 14,000,000 tons of food and spent \$4,000,000,000 while caring for war victims and providing for refugees.

The UNRRA was succeeded in 1948 by the International Refugee Organization (IRO) with headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland. This United Nations agency continued the refugee work done by its predecessor.

Austria.

UNRRA Camps in Austria. 1, 5, 10, 20 Units. Rare.

IRO International Refugee Organization. For use only in IRO Assembly Center Service Stores.

Payment Certificates, 1 Unit, green; 5 Units, red; 10 Units, blue. Rare.

Joint Jewish Camps in Austria. Printed in English. 1 Unit. Rare.
Wegscheid bei Linz, DP Camp.

Denominations of 1, 5, 10 and 20 with different shields of David. Rare.

Ration coupons were also issued for Austrian DP's and possibly elsewhere, too. The American Red Cross issued cards composed of small sections reading "American Red Cross / One Coupon" (green on buff card) which probably had a general use and not just in Austria and may also have appeared in other denominations and varieties.

Germany.

Deggendorf (Bavaria). Jewish Community. Stamped D.P. Camp 7. Undated (1945).

Feldafing. Jewish Community. 10 Dollars. Also other denominations. Rare.

No place of issue given. Employment Board for Jewish Displaced Persons. U.S. Zone, Germany, 1947.

1 and 500 (Mark?) denominations. Others? Very rare.

Netherlands.

Netherlands government notes in the possession of displaced persons were credited to them after being stamped with the inscription: "Netherlands Liaison Officer / for Displaced Persons / (Date)." Very scarce as are most DP issues. Since refugees often had few possessions and little money they could not afford to keep these and other notes as souvenirs and most were cashed in.

Cyprus.

Following the end of World War II many Jews from liberated Europe tried to reach Palestine. The number was far in excess of the 1500 monthly allowed by the British mandate, and while some managed to enter illegally, most were intercepted and placed in the Displaced Persons Camps established on the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean. The internment began in August 1946 and continued until the camps were ended in March 1949.

Funds from the United States, particularly the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, were used to provide accommodations, schools, medical services, etc. To pay the many that helped in maintaining the camps, canteen scrip was issued. The first issue (illustrated courtesy of Mei Schmuely and David Atsmony) bore the inscription AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, and Good for purchase in the canteens in Cyprus or for exchange for cash in Jeru-



Photo courtesy Mei Schmuely and David Atsmony

salem, in English and Hebrew. The notes are signed in Hebrew by M. Laub, Director of the Committee in Cyprus. The notes are printed by letterpress (Sinai Press, Jerusalem) on obverse only with a colored background. All very rare.

1 Shilling, light blue, serial numbers begin with A; 2 Shillings, light yellow, serial numbers begin with B; 5 Shillings, pink, serial numbers begin with C.

The second issue is similar except it reads AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, CYPRUS, after other agencies in the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in giving aid, and at side reads "Good for purchase in the canteens" instead of the longer inscription used previously since the mention of exchange in Jerusalem was antagonizing to the British. This issue was made in two deliveries, the first bearing serial numbers 1 to 6000, and the second with numbers 6001 to 12000. Instead of letters A, B or C preceding the number, the Hebrew equivalent is used for each denomination.

1 Shilling, light blue; 2 Shillings, light yellow; 5 Shillings, green.

During the settlement of the refugees in Israel and the succeeding clashes between Jewish and Arabian troops, there were camps for dis-

הוועד היהודי-האמריקאי המאוחד לסיוע (ג'וינט)
AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

GOOD
for purchase in the
canteens in Cyprus or
for exchange for cash
in Jerusalem.

שילינגים

2

Shillings

ס"ב
לקנין בקנטנות
או להחלפה במזומן
בירושלים.

B 010500

placed persons in Israel, but very little is known of the camp money they used. A note (Denomination "1") printed in red and black on white paper and bearing an oval rubber stamp of the Council in reverse has been seen.

The United Nations aided the refugees at this time through their Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

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Bolzano Concentration Camp

(Near the Swiss-Italian Border)

By Dr. Gastone Söllner
Switzerland

To obtain information on the Bolzano concentration camp, set up by the Germans as a transit camp for political internees during the Second World War, we contacted the National Association of ex-Political Deportees in Nazi Camps (*L'Associazione Nazionale ex Deportati Politici nei Campi Nazisti*). This body supplied us with information, in part unpublished, that we wish to bring to the attention of those collectors particularly interested in the issue of notes (bills), which served prisoners of war and internees as a means of exchange.

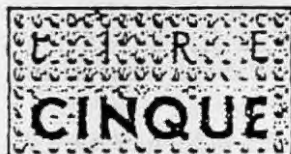
POL. DURCHCANSLACER BOZEN
CAMPO CONCENTRAM.



2

1945

POL. DURCHCANSLACER BOZEN
CAMPO CONCENTRAM.



5

1945

Resistance Committee Money

The above-mentioned association which was formed to bring together the few survivors of, and the relatives of those who perished in, the tragic concentrations camps of Germany Poland and Italy, possesses the

written statement of an ex-political prisoner who spent a long time in the Via Rensia camp in Bolzano/Gries. He is Mr. Bruno Galmozzi; his number was 2979.

His statement includes the history of an issue of notes, which cannot, as is often the case, be confused with those issued by the S.S. Command, since they were printed solely and officially on the orders of the Internal Resistance Committee (*Comitato Interno di Resistenza*), as a clandestine purchase currency for those prisoners in need of special supplies. The notes were spent at certain shops in Bolzano, with the help of the teams of political prisoners who daily, or sometimes periodically, left the camp to work in the city or at the Virgolo tunnel. Local patriots secretly aided the prisoners in their shopping. Only a few of the prisoners knew of the issue and purpose of the notes: the clandestine Committee, represented by members of various political parties, and a few trusted "spenders" who left the camp with the working parties.

The notes were printed in secrecy in the camp's press by Mr. Galmozzi, who, at that time, was responsible

POL. DURCHCANSLACER BOZEN
CAMPO CONCENTRAM.



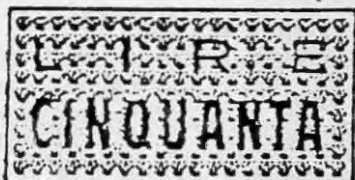
10

1945

POLIZEI DURCHGANGSLAGER BOZEN
CAMPO CONCENTRAMENTO

Gui für

Buono per



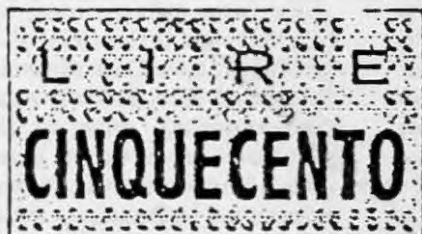
50

1 9 4 5

POLIZEI DURCHGANGSLAGER BOZEN
CAMPO CONCENTRAMENTO

Gui für

Buono per



500

1 9 4 5

for printing and was a member of the Internal Resistance Committee.

The printer prepared the drafts using paper cuttings of various colours and began printing at sometime between the middle of December, 1944 and January, 1945. The notes issued, which bear the date 1945, were:—

Lire 2 on grey paper, printed in black and sky blue, size 66.3 x 43.5 mm.

Lire 5 on light green paper, printed in black and green, 65.5 x 41.5 mm.

Lire 10 on dark brown paper, printed in black and red, 80.5 x 52.5 mm.

Lire 50 on straw-coloured paper, printed in black and red, 80.5 x 52.5 mm.

Lire 500 on straw-coloured paper, printed in black and green, 101 x 58.5 mm.

Mr. Galmozzi, in his account published in January, 1965, i.e. about 20 years after the closure of the Bolzano camp, declares with certainty that the Lire 500 note was the first to be made; he believes that he also printed that for Lire 100, but he no longer remembers the colour of the paper or its exact size. All of the notes were printed on one side only, the reverse being left blank. Some 50 notes of Lire 2, 5 and 10 each were printed; up to 70 each of the Lire 50 and 500 (and possibly 100) notes were printed.

The notes were hidden with the camp leader, Mr. Ermanno Pasqualini, who also kept funds in genuine Italian currency.

Purchasing with these notes continued for nearly 3 months, until, in fact, the various shops in Bolzano ceased to accept them out of fear of



Resistance Money used by SS troops.

discovery and consequent imprisonment in the local S.S. camp.

Mr. Galmozzi records another dramatic fact worthy of mention. In April, 1945, S.S. Marshal Koenig was informed by the guard of the discovery, during an inspection of the external working party prior to leaving the camp, of strange tickets bearing the name of the prison. Marshal Hans Haager, responsible for camp discipline, was immediately informed and a group of officials raided the printing press. Mr. Galmozzi was bombarded with questions in an attempt to make him reveal the source of the notes, the names of those responsible for their printing and their purpose. Being unable to deny their existence, he replied that they had been printed on bits of useless waste paper and that they had been used only in games of poker; he had no accomplices and was alone responsible.

Although his story was not believed, Mr. Galmozzi was not punished; perhaps because the Bolzano camp authorities already felt trapped by the Allied troops and the partisans; perhaps because they had other uses for his expertise.

However, many of the notes were confiscated and used by the S.S.

themselves to purchase goods in the Bolzano shops which, obviously, were now forced to accept them.

After the Liberation some of the notes were found bearing the ink stamps of the S.S., but these cannot in all respects be considered as the genuine clandestine issue of money in the camp. The stamp was applied "improperly" by some holders of the notes during the chaos that accompanied the liberation and the departure of the S.S. Prisoners had invaded the offices and workshops of the camp looting everything. Stamps and "scartofie" (office equipment) of the S.S. offices were scattered everywhere and, possibly, one of the prisoners decided to put the Nazi stamp (eagle and swastika) on some of the notes, perhaps as a souvenir.

The writer would be grateful for any further information on the concentration camp of Bolzano.

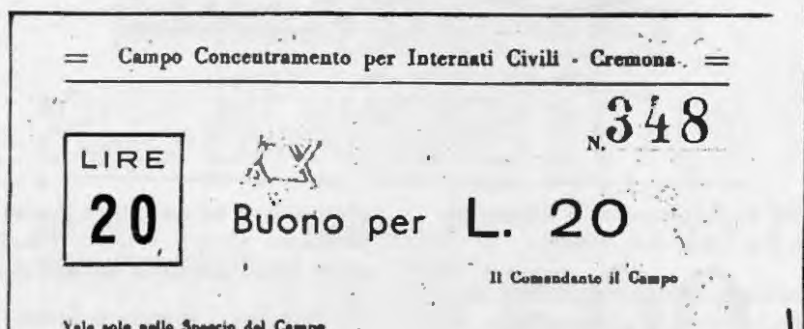
EDITOR'S NOTE

Approximately 15,000 Jews were funneled through Italian camps late in the war. Perhaps Bolzano was one.

Dr. Söllner is author of *Occupation and Liberation Paper Money Issues of the Second World War*.

The Star of David on Camp Notes

By Yasha Beresiner, N.L.G.
England



ITALY

Dr. Gaston Sollner, in the second edition of his *Occupation and Liberation Paper Money Issues of the Second World War*, devotes an excellent section to the P.O.W. Camps in Italy. (These were, co-incidentally, known as "Campi Di Concetramento"—Concentration Camps—but were, in fact, equivalent to normal prisoner of war camps for military and civilian internees. They bore no similarity to

the infamous camps established by the Germans.) There is no record of any Italian P.O.W. Camp intended for the specific internment of the Jewish populace.

It was with great interest, therefore, that I noted the Star of David over-stamped on the left-hand side of the Italian Cremona P.O.W. Camp issues. The set of seven notes from .50 centesimi to 50 lire are all in



Circulated 50 Lire note number 322 of the Italian Concentration Camp for civilian internees in Cremona, signed by the Camp Commander G. Zucelli(?)



Cremona Notes — courtesy Morty Zerder

mint condition. The denominations below the 10 lire have four figure serial numbers, whereas the 10, 20, and 50 lire are all numbered under 1000. The same series of notes also bears a hand stamp placed on the space allocated for signature and reads in Italian: "Concentration Camp for Civilian Internees, Cremona."

In spite of lengthy correspondence and conversations with experts, the significance of the Star of David on these issues remained beyond comprehension. That is, until some weeks ago, when my good friend Guido Crapanzano of Milan sent me the 50 Lire note illustrated, on which the Star of David was absent, but which had been hand signed by the Camp Commandant—G. Zucelli(?).

If this theory is correct, the Star of David should not appear on any note which has been signed by the Camp Commandant. The signed notes without the Star of David are bound to be in poorer condition due to the fact that they were circulated more

freely and must furthermore, of necessity, be rarer, since they were redeemable.

The signature appearing on the illustrated photograph is confirmed as being genuine, since it was made available from someone who had physically handled it in the Cremona Camp. It may, therefore, be used for comparative purposes.

Even more interesting is the fact that Guido had the opportunity of meeting a Jewish gentleman who had physically been present in the Camp and whose recollections—if correct—would explain the Star of David.

GERMANY

"Concentration Camp Money" is almost automatically associated with the Second World War Nazi camps for the internment of Jewish civilians. The infamous names of these Camps—Buchenwald, Dachau, Ravensbruck, Litsmanstadt, Theresienstadt.

Not unlike the Litzmannstadt and Theresienstadt "Quittung" (receipts), the Cremona P.O.W. Camp monies were allocated to the internees against the legal tender currency in their possession, which was confiscated from them. These steps were taken—as in all camps during the second World War—in order to disrupt any escape plans which would necessarily depend upon the availability of acceptable currency. In the case of the Italian camps, the authorities intended to redeem the

Camp money at the end of the war. This, however, did not apply to the internees who were of the Jewish faith. Thus the normal Camp notes were officially validated with the Camp Commandant's signature; but it was replaced by the Star of David where the notes were allocated to Jewish internees.

Reprinted excerpts from European News & Views, Bank Note Reporter, December, 1975.



A KEY MANUAL OF CONCENTRATION CAMP NUMISMATICS



Only one book to date has been totally devoted to the subject of concentration camp monies, *Das Lagergeld der Konzentrations—und D.P.-Lager 1933-1945* by Von Albert Pick and Carl Siemsen, published in Germany in 1976 by Ernest Battenberg Verlag, Munich.

Another work is *Occupation and Liberation Paper Money Issues of the Second World War* by Dr. Gastone Söllner, Switzerland.



THE "BRABAG" NOTES

by David Atsmony, Tel Aviv

Like no other people before, the Nazis perfected the exploitation of POW's and Concentration Camp inmates. Many factories, producing exclusively for the German War Machinery were erected in the neighborhood of Concentration Camps. This was done to utilize at the utmost the inmates of the Camps as "slave workers". The SS commandos "recruited" these slaves who receive a daily pay of RM 3. They were considered the "lucky ones" as with this hard earned money some vital food could be bought.

The owners of the factories made huge profits and were interested in increasing production. To get more work done by the slaves "PRAMIENSCHNEINE" (Premium Notes) for the exclusive use in canteens were issued. Some vital food could be bought with these "premium notes."

BRABAG Braunkohle-Benzin A.O., Magdeburg, (BRABAG Lignite-Petrol Ltd.) built two such "Kommandos"; that was how the Nazis called these branches during 1944, the last year of WW II. One Kommando was in Boehlen (near Leip-

zig) the other in Troeglitz (near Zeitz). The nearby located BUCHENWALD C.C. sent daily 800-1000 "laborers" to each Kommando. Brabag issued "premium notes" for the exclusive use in their canteens.

These chits, unknown to almost all collectors, circulated a short time only. The uniface chits have:

A Serial number with star in the first line

BRABAG in the centre

"WERTMARKE" (value chit) with denomination in the lower right corner

Printers imprint L/0960 in extreme left corner and are NOT signed.

The author knows of only two denominations:

RM—.50 green and RM 2.—white but undoubtedly other denominations must have been issued.

To the best of our knowledge, above description is the very first one ever printed. Any additional information will be welcome.

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THE SCRIP PAPER MONEY OF THE NETHERLANDS CONCENTRATION CAMPS

by DR. ALAN YORK

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Note of the first issue



Note of the second issue

When the Nazi hordes overran the Netherlands, they quickly set out to establish three major concentration camps, all of which issued scrip paper money. Each camp had a somewhat different function, but each was a transit camp to the death camps of Eastern and Central Europe.

Amersfoort originally was a concentration camp for the punishment of the political opponents of the Nazi regime. It was here that Dutch patriots, some of whom opposed the fascist racial decrees, some who were members of the Dutch parliament refusing to collaborate with the enemy, were incarcerated for short periods of time. Those sentenced to longer terms were transported to camps in Germany, primarily Bergen-Belsen. Later on, prominent Jews were sent there to suffer extortion, torture, and imprisonment.

The scrip notes of Amersfoort, were uniquely inscribed "Pol. Durchgangslager, Amersfoort—Häftlings-Kantinegeld" (Political Transit Camp, Amersfoort, Prisoner's Can-

tine Money). They were issued as a premium for labor tasks performed and could be used to buy toiletries and such when there were available. As with all camp scrip, they circulated among the camp population as a medium of exchange for necessities and services.

All are the same size: 90 by 50 mm. All have a solid red triangle imprinted on the obverse, the German symbol for prisoner. There were two issues each in the denominations of 10, 25 cent, 1, 2½, and 5 Gulden. The first series bears a six-digit serial number preceded by a "No." with a period under the letter "o". The second series is identified by a six-digit serial number followed by a stylized six-pointed star and a period following the letter "o" in "No." The notes are to be found on unwatermarked paper as well as watermarked "GB." All bear the printed signature of "Berg", the camp commander.

More difficult to locate are the scrip notes of Vught near Herzogen-



"Camp Money" of Herzogenbusch (Vught).

busch. This was strictly a vicious S.S. camp. Few who entered here escaped with their lives. A part of Vught was set aside as a slave labor camp. Jewish ex-diamond workers were sent there to work on electronic circuitry production for the Phillips Electronics Company. It is to the credit of the Phillips personnel that they tried to protect the Jewish prisoners there as best they could. Some prisoners were taken out of Vught to work at the Phillips plant in Eindhoven. Rumors persist amongst researchers in this field that there was an issue of scrip for Eindhoven, but I have never seen them.

There are two basic types of "notes" known from the Vught concentration camp. The first type has the legend "Lagergeld für das K.L.H. im Wert von (value inserted here) Konzentrations Lager Herzogenbusch;" this translates as Camp Money for the Concentration Camp of Herzogenbusch in value of.—.—" Values known are 10, 25 cents, 1, 2½, and 10 Gulden. The three high values are all dated 1-11-43.

The others are undated. All the notes are printed on paper of a poor quality and are of different sizes and layouts.

The second type is crudely printed on thin cardboard, uniface, perforated with the letters "KL.He" (abbreviations of the camp name.) They bear the rubber-stamped cachet seal "Konzentrationslager/Waffen-SS/Herzogenbusch" and the printed words, *Prämienschein*. (Award scrip note.) All are the same size, 70 by 60 mm, differing only in color. It is possible that these were the notes used in Eindhoven.

The most commonly found of all the Netherlands concentration camp notes are those of Westerbork. These notes were considered to be rare until about 15 years. Then a hoard of about 300 sets of the four notes was unearthed in the attic of a former inmate. This collector had held on to them in despair, not knowing what to do with them: To destroy them or release them. They were brought in to the numismatic market by a prominent Dutch stamp dealer

whose effort made it possible for today's collectors and museums to

Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York



Pramienschein (Award scrip note) of Vught

have a set of these historically important numismatic documents.

After "Kristallnacht" (1938), some 30,000 Jewish refugees fled across the border into Holland. The Dutch Government concerned by the possibility of a flood of refugees coming into the country (Editor: does this sound familiar?) settled them in a hastily set-up camp in a dismal boggy swamp area near the border town of Westerbork.

This camp was not supported by the Dutch Government but by the Jewish community councils of the Netherlands.

When the refugee ship *St. Louis* was denied permission by the Roosevelt Administration to land its Jewish refugees in America, many jumped ship at Rotterdam, sent from there by the Dutch Government to

Westerbork. In 1939, when the Nazis overran little Holland, they already found many Jews waiting for them at the Westerbork camp. It was a simple matter to erect barbed wire around the camp and to pen them in.

Because most Jews of Holland lived in the three large cities, Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Amsterdam, it was a simple matter for the Gestapo and S.S. to round them up in a few "aktions." One of the first Anti-Jewish Economic Decrees confiscated 20% of all Jewish funds to pay for the maintenance of the Westerbork camp, as had been arranged in pre-Occupation Days.

Notes of Westerbork are unusual in that they portray an overview of the camp with a smoking chimney of the laundry and the main street, Boulevard des Misères. On the reverse is a large cogged mechanical wheel, emblem of the camp. When asked about it, the Nazis replied that it represented redemption via camp labor. The inmates replied, when asked, that it was "the last Wheel of Life for them." All the notes are signed on the reverse by the camp commander, A.K. Gemmeker, a Dutchman. After the war Gemmeker was sentenced to 10-years imprisonment, a slap on the wrist for what he had done in transporting tens of thousands of innocent victims to Auschwitz, Mauthausen, and Bergen-Belsen. Anne Frank perished at Bergen-Belsen after passing through Gemmeker's Westerbork.

continued on page 45

Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York.



Normal 100 cent note serie CC with serial number

Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York.



Excessively rare variety without "Serie" letter and serial number.

Theresienstadt's Bleak Bank Note Story

by Evzen Sknouril
Czechoslovakia

When collectors go through the third edition of Albert Pick's *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* there are no items of Terezin cataloged.

However, the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* lists similar money issued for Lodz and has prepared proper space for these issues under the heading of "Token Issues". However, in Terezin—in German Theresienstadt—there was no metal money issued.

Philatelists list in their European stamp catalogs both Theresienstadt and Lodz. What is common to these two cities of central Europe? They

were both sites for "closed" Jewish concentration camps under Nazi Germany's occupation during World War II.

The SCWC 1982 in its note is not quite accurate enough when stating that Lodz was the last ghetto closed during the war (August 1944) when Theresienstadt was liberated on May 8, 1945!

It is also perplexing that Pick would ignore the paper money of Theresienstadt and Lodz and in the same vein list some vouchers of military camps in France and other countries. These items are more than merely so-called "emergency curren-



A detailed view of the cells at the "Little Fortress" give some indication as to what living conditions were like at the camp.

cy". They should be listed as military occupation issues, since the use of this currency was limited to the concentration camps and ghettos under the direct command of the military.

Theresienstadt founding

Theresienstadt was established as a fortress on Oct. 10, 1780, by Emperor Josef II, who honored empress Maria Theresa by giving the fortress the name Theresienstadt (in Czech Terezin). In order to construct this fortress, the villages of Kopisty and Travčice were razed and reconstructed west of the fortress. This construction project was under the command of Col. Niklas Freiherr von Steinmetz. In 1782, Theresienstadt was promoted to the status as a free royal city and awarded a coat of arms. In 1784, the fortress was completed.

After the invasion of Prussian troops into Bohemia, the city was to have served as a defense fortification against the enemy. However, the fortress was never utilized for this task and was liquidated in 1882 as a military object. The remains of the fortress became a heavily guarded military prison where political prisoners of the Austrian monarchy were interned.

In 1823, Alexandr Ypsilanti, freedom fighter against the Turks, was interned there; in 1878, Hadji Loja Salich Effendi, Bosnian freedom fighter, was imprisoned there. After the attempted murder on Austrian successor to the throne Ferdinand d'Este in June 1914 in Sarajevo (the incident which exploded into World War I), Yugoslavian terrorists Gavrilo Princip, Nejdek Grabrinovic and Tripko Grabes were incarcerated and killed there. After the fall of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, the remains of these three terrorists were exhumed and transported to Yugoslavia.

At the beginning of World War I in 1914, there were 700 prisoners. In 1918, the prison was overcrowded with 17,000 prisoners of war from the Russian, Serbian and Italian fronts. For the purpose of guarding the POWs, a wooden barracks had been built in the vicinity of the city. This internment camp was the largest on Czech soil during World War I.

World War II

In 1939, a Nazi flag was hoisted over the little fortress, which was destined to become the largest concentration camp in Bohemia and one of the most remembered in the dark pages of history.

Leader of the Prague Gestapo, Dr. Geschke, gave orders on June 10, 1940, to send the first working and guard troops to Theresienstadt. Immediate officer in charge at the camp was Heinrich Jockl, who had experience in camp operation gained at Skochovice near Opava. After only four days of preparation, the first prisoners arrived.

The first official designation for the place was a "police prison" where prisoners from throughout the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia were sent by the Germans.

Difficult conditions at the "Little Fortress" gave it a very bad reputation. Visits were permitted only after Prague Gestapo approval. Parcels with clothes and food were allowed only on Christmas 1942 and 1943. But on May 24, 1944, these parcels were forbidden by the orders of Jockl. As for letters, they could be delivered after being held for several months and delivery was not certain.

The overcrowded cells were occupied by over 30,000 prisoners. Hunger, epidemics, maltreatment and executions ended the lives of over 2,000. Jewish prisoners were sent to the fortress for breaking "anti-Jewish Law" and for participation in politi-



An aerial view of the Terezin concentration camp and the new national cemetery. On the left is the "Alley of Nations".

cal resistance. After the war, Jockl was sentenced to death and executed with the last S.S. commander of the camp, Karl Rahm.

City of Terezin

What is also of interest is the city of Terezin. It is situated about 40 kilometers north from Prague, on an extensive plateau on the Ohre River, at which point the river forks.

At the beginning of the 1900s, there were 2,245 Czechs (961 of them soldiers) and 4,407 Germans (2,704 being soldiers) located there. Soldiers were situated in eight barracks. Also of a military nature, there were military offices, artillery munition magazines and a hospital. As for the civil inhabitants, they had a church, Czech and German basic school, post office, telegraph, telephone, gendarmerie station, a bank, brewery, two mills, several manufacturers, two printing offices and a few

fairs established since 1812. Such was the makeup of the city which was to become the largest Jewish concentration camp in Bohemia.

The ghetto established

In 1941, negotiations were underway to establish a Jewish ghetto in the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Among several places in Bohemia was Terezin.

The first transport came to Terezin on Nov. 24, 1941 with 342 young men, mostly craftsmen. Shortly there followed to more transport from Prague and Brno, each with 1,000 persons and another working group. Beginning in January 1942, there came one transport per week with 1,000 persons from throughout the protectorate. This lasted until March 6, 1943, when the transports were reduced and finally terminated on Oct. 23, 1943.

Despite the fact that all Jews in the protectorate had been rounded up and sent to Terezin, the Germans then transported Jews from all of the occupied countries, totaling 153,000. After April 20, 1945, another 12,451 Jews from various concentration camps in Germany and Poland were shipped to Terezin.

According to statistics made after liberation on May 21, 1945, there were Jews of 35 nationalities with 73,608 from the protectorate, 42,105 from Germany, 15,254 from Austria, 4,897 from the Netherlands, and 1,447 from Slovakia. Only 17,320 inmates were liberated by the Red Army. Nearly half of the given number of prisoners came from the territory of the protectorate.

An established system of procedure was applicable to the Jewish population being shipped to Terezin. The main disciplinary body in the camp was the "Jewish police", which was formed by ghetto inhabitants and protectorate gendarmerie.



A set of Theresienstadt notes or receipts were issued in six denominations ranging from 1-koruna to 100-koruna.

The Nazi S.S. came seldomly and then only to control certain situations.

Upon registering at the camp, all valuable items had to be "deposited". All luggage was checked and a portion of the contents, always different items, was always removed. After the check-in, men and women went to the barracks and children to the Kinderheim where they were under the care of Jewish nurses. As of April 24, 1942, each newcomer was allowed only 30 kilograms of so-called "soft luggage", food and clothes, and all other things were taken.

Until June 1942, there were also non-Jewish civilians living around and in Terezin but not incarcerated there. However, this population was moved elsewhere and Terezin became a closed ghetto. Prior to the closed ghetto, nobody was allowed to leave the barracks without special orders, only the disciplinary body, doctors and nurses with an arm band could move about freely. After the closed ghetto was established, anyone could roam about the borders of

the town. The streets of the ghetto were separated from the German portion by turnpikes and wooden fences.

The Nazis tried to establish within Terezin a semblance of a normal city whose inhabitants would live in their usual way. There was an open cafeteria on the square where a coffee substitute was served. However, only those who received coffee coupons could enter it. There were shops with clothes, materials, and food, but usually nothing could be purchased there. Only individuals having goods coupons and a designated turn could buy there. All ghetto inhabitants received good coupons, but this came only once a year and sometimes were cutoff entirely. The order of shopping was always announced in a daily order.

Terezin's Bank Notes

This ghetto compound even had its own money to pay to workers. At the end of 1942, it was announced that effective Jan. 1, 1943, a monetary system would be established in the camp and special money would

be issued. This event took place on April 21, 1943, when the so-called Bank of Jewish Autonomy received 53 million Terezin crowns. The first payment took place on May 12, 1943. This was, in fact, a case of S.S. whitewashing since everyone in the camp had this money but did not have anything to spend it on!

What this system created was a numbers game, keeping inmates employed in useless accounting and statistical work. For this, nearly 80 persons were needed. They prepared payrolls, issued and controlled worthless goods coupons and calculated imaginary salaries.

The only worthwhile way in which to "spend" the money was to deposit it in the library. Books with special and scientific content were only privately lent to inmates. For each book, 50 terezinska koruna were deposited. Within a year, the library account in the "bank" was 120,000 terezinska koruna. Finally, this amount reached the sum of 225,000 terezinska koruna, which nobody wanted returned since the money was indeed worthless.

Life in the ghetto was pure hell. Individuals were crowded on lofts, sleeping mostly on tiered beds in lasting fears for the next transport. The basic demand for personal hygiene was never realized. The inhabitants were hungry and were served insufficient rations.

The children had a park near the square and an excellent pavillion with seesaws and carousels. When any expected foreign mission came to see the children, the children would have to play as long as the visitors remained.

If a woman gave birth at the camp, she was allowed at the beginning to be with her child in a special room until the child was six months old. Then, the child was passed over to the Kinderheim. In 1943, this prac-



Executions took place here and are commemorated with a memorial plaque, which lists the 17 states in Europe whose citizens were killed on this spot.

tice was changed, and pregnant women underwent abortions. Later, the S.S. threatened that all pregnant women would be sent out on a transport, indicating that pregnancy would result in being shipped to a gas chamber.

The first Terezin judenaltester, Jakob Edelstein, was a practical politician and, compared to his successors, had a heart of oak and was a considerably brave man. He often succeeded in his opposition to the Nazis and secured the removal of some inconveniences from the ghetto. Later, he was undermined by the Nazis, who replaced him, and on Nov. 9, 1943, was sent on a transport to Oswiecim and shot in June 1944.

Soviet Liberation

The first Soviet tanks passed Terezin on May 8, 1945 at 7:45 p.m., when they liberated this sad place of human pain. All possible help and assistance, including food and medicine, were given to the prisoners by the commander of the Red Army. Altogether, five army hospitals were established to fight against the epidemic of typhus.

At the end of 1945, Terezin was empty. However, material liquidation lasted several months. Only at the end of 1945, a Czech army unit



Arbeit Macht Frei was the greeting which prisoners coming into Theresienstadt first saw. This translates as "Work Makes Free".

returned to the barracks. After this initial incursion, a small portion of the original inhabitants returned and it took until 1947 for the city to really become inhabited.

In the early postwar years, the Terezin Memorial was established to take care of the former concentration camps in Terezin and Litomerice. It not only seeks to keep active the memory of those who lost their lives in these camps but to serve as a grim reminder against fascism. In 1945, a national cemetery was established in which 30,000 victims of the camp are buried. There are 13 obelisks with the names and states of those who suffered and died at Terezin and Litomerice. Each year, on the anniversary of the liberation of the camp, there is a peace festival.

This is the sad tale of Terezin, also called Theresienstadt. Now, let's look at the numismatic angle of the story.

Theresienstadt notes

The issuance of paper money and coins in the Jewish ghettos supposedly illustrated the fact that they were semi-autonomous, a point of propaganda for the rest of the world to digest. While Lodz was completely destroyed during the war with its supply of currency, in Terezin the



Medical personnel aid the inmates at Theresienstadt after the liberation of the camp by the Red Army.

liberators discovered numerous un-circulated sets.

Each bank note carried the inscription "Quittung" meaning "receipt" and most probably suggested that its owner had no claim for cashing them. Lodz quittance had an issue date of 15.5.1940 and Terezin 1.1.1943.

Terezin paper money are collected by Czechs as well as bank note specialists of the world. They are considered by Czech collectors as being backed by the authority of the state, although in this case the state was an occupying authority. So-called receipts of this Jewish camp are catalogued by Julius Sem, reputable expert on Czech bank notes and bank notes circulating in Czech territory, under the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia—which is some indication as to where these notes should be placed in Pick's *Standard Catalog of World Paper Money*.

There is a trend of thought in Czech collector circles that the camp coupons or receipts are not emergency issues. The exchange area for the pieces was limited by the borders of the camp. Circulation of these notes was forced and in some cases there was even no circulation at all. Many coupons were issued only as propaganda material.

Financial matters within the camp were carried out by the "Bank der Jüdischen Selbstverwaltung Theresienstadt" the basic capital of which became 53,720,000 teresinska koruna in paper receipts. These receipts had nominal values in koruna currency.

According to the Sem catalog (the notes bearing numbers 285-291), the following information is known about the notes: 1-koruna, 100x50mm, grey-green in color, 2,242,000 pieces printed; 2-koruna, 110x55mm, pink in color, 1,019,000 pieces printed; 5-koruna, 120x58mm, grey in color, 530,000 pieces printed; 10-korun, 125x63mm, blue in color, 456,000 pieces printed; 20-koruna, 135x66mm, green in color, 319,000 pieces printed; 50-koruna, 140x70mm, blue-green in color, 159,000 pieces printed; and, 100-koruna 150x75mm, dark brown in color, 279,000 pieces printed.

All notes had on the lower left corner of the face "Theresienstadt - 1. Jänner 1943." In the opposite corner is the signature of "Der Älteste der Juden in Theresienstadt - Jacob Edelstein." On the back, there is a portrait of Moses with the Decalogue. This was an original painting by Jindra Schmidt and had to be changed so that Moses had hard features and was ugly—or "more Jewish" in the eyes of the Nazi S.S. There is also expressed the nominal value of the note and a text in German which translate into English as "Who falsify or imitate this receipt or put in circulation false receipts will be severely punished." See page 34.

Nominal values of the 1-, 2-, 5- and 10-koruna have only one serial letter (A) followed by a three digit number. These values are printed on unwatermarked white paper. Higher denominations are printed on watermarked paper same as the

protectorate 10-koruna of 1942, having running spindles and rings. These higher denominated notes have red serial numbers. For the 20-koruna note, a small 3.2mm numbering machine was used while a 4mm machine was used for the 50- and 100-koruna notes. All denominations were printed by the double offset method in the Banknote Printing Office in Prague in March 1943 on the order of the commissioner of the Imperial Bank at the National Bank for Bohemia and Moravia (NBCM).

According to the 1977 Sem catalog, there were an estimated 251-350 sets among collectors. After the liberation of the camp, these notes were officially destroyed in November 1952 at the Czechoslovak State Bank. Only a small part of them were sold unperforated to collectors at that time.

It's about time that these notes be listed along with the issues of the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia as true occupation issues.

Permission to reproduce this article by Czech numismatist Evzen Sknouril which first appeared in America in World Coin News (April 20, 1982) is gratefully acknowledged.

COMING IN NEXT ISSUE

- New Medals from Israel
- The Jewish World Champion Heavyweight Boxer
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- Protecting Your Home from Intruders

PETER KIEN: HE CREATED THE MOSES KRONEN

The character of Karl Weiss created by Gerald Green for his novel and screenplay *Holocaust* appears to have been based largely on the life of Peter Kien and some incidents in the life of two other artists who were with Kien in Theresienstadt.

PETER KIEN was born Varnsdorf, (Sudetenland) Czechoslovakia January 1, 1919. Following secondary education he attended Artists school in Brno. He was a graduate of the Art Institute of Prague (1939). Theresienstadt opened November 14, 1941.

Kien and his parents were deported to Theresienstadt on Friday, December 5, 1941, the Friday before Pearl Harbor.

In 1942, under orders of the SS, Kien designed the ghetto currency known as the "Moses Crowns" with Heilbronn, (an engraver from Dresden). Between 1942 and 1944 he wrote poems and created a multitude of drawings and paintings. In 1943 and 1944 he collaborated with composer Viktor Ullmann (a student of Arnold Schoenberg) and wrote the librettos to two operas, *DIE PUPPEN* (*THE PUPPETS*) and *THE EMPEROR OF ATLANTIS*.

During October, 1944, with his



Self-Portrait by Petr Kien

From *The Artists of Terezin* by Gerald Green.

wife and parents he was transported to Auschwitz where all were gassed.

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'THE GHETTO IS FIGHTING' BANKNOTE OF POLAND

by Dr. Alan York
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Recently, a well known expert in the field of Judaic syngraphics provided an enigmatic Polish Emission Bank note of 100 zloty-Krakow issue, 1 August 1941 (Pick # 103), overprinted boldly and diagonally on the obverse in the Polish language the cryptic proclamation "GETTO WALCZY" . . . "The Ghetto Fights"

This particular note came out of a very old Polish collection that had been in storage in Israel for many years.

These notes of the Emission Bank of Poland were issued under the authority of the Nazi overlord of Occupied Poland, the notorious Dr. Hans Frank. That portion of Poland not directly annexed to Germany, the Ukraine, or the Baltic States was

called the *Gouvernement General* and comprised the districts of Warsaw, Lublin, Galicia, and Radom. It was in this area that these notes circulated.

When we think of a ghetto uprising in Poland, we naturally think of the heroic Warsaw Ghetto struggle. There were however, other less well publicized but none the less heroic battles in Lublin, Bialystok, Lvov, Czestochowa, and in many other centers. This note could be from any of the fighting ghettos; but where?

"Continue the Struggle"

Lest there still be some to whom the concept of a ghetto uprising against the Hitlerite hordes be un-

thinkable, I quote verbatim from one of the still existing documents of the Warsaw Ghetto epic.

TO THE DEFENDERS OF THE WARSAW GHETTO.

TO THE JEWS WHO REMAIN ALIVE!

The population of Warsaw has been conducting an armed struggle against the German invaders for the last three days. This is our struggle too. A year has passed since we raised the flag of the famous revolt in the Ghettos and labor camps, since we began the battle for our lives and our honor, and we again join the entire Polish nation in the fight for freedom. Hundreds of Jewish youths and members of the Jewish Fighting Organization stand shoulder to shoulder with their Polish comrades at the barricades. We send our greetings to the fighters.

Together with the rest of the Polish nation we are, today, struggling for freedom. All of the members of the Jewish Fighting Organization who have survived and all Jewish youths capable of fighting are hereby called on to continue the struggle. No one should stay behind. Join the ranks of the rebels. Through war we shall achieve victory, and a free sovereign, strong and just Poland!

The Jewish Fighting Organization
(signed) Antek, Commander
(Yitzhak Cukerman)

So, why were these notes overprinted? As the war moved towards its conclusion, the purchasing power of the zloty declined drastically. This was part of the plan for the economic destruction of Poland. The high valued 100 zloty note, devalued as it was, still had some min-

iscule value. So, if the Jewish Fighting Organization in one of the ghettos in revolt, wanted to get its message to circulate outside of the ghetto walls, what better way than to overprint it on a circulating medium of paper currency?

It is certain that if the overprinted money ever got into the banking system, it would be confiscated. But still, if one found a piece of paper money with an overprinted message on it, it wouldn't be discarded, if the basic note was still valid. Propaganda overprinting of currency had been done in Germany and Russia during and after World War One. During the terrible German inflationary period there were numerous political, Nazi, Communist, and anti-Semitic messages overprinted on paper money.

The Polish underground forces during the Warsaw uprising overprinted many patriotic messages on these same banknotes, translating "Long Live the Anglo-American-Polish Brotherhood in Arms!", "Germany Is Losing On All Fronts!," "The First Pay In The September 1944 Uprising!," to name but a few. So, there was a precedent for the political and military overprinting of paper money.

While the Polish underground overprints are listed and recognized in the standard paper money catalogues of Pick, Kowalski, Terlecki, Jablonski, Cupieniec, etc., this one lone example—possibly unique, exists from that sad period. Knowledgeable syngraphists in Poland, Germany, Israel, and the USA who have made a lifetime study of this type of material, when shown this note, express amazement. Very probably, it came from the Warsaw Ghetto uprising; but, it could also have originated in Lublin, or any of the other fighting Polish ghettos.

Possibly, it could have been a souvenir from a reunion of ghetto fight-



LOCATION OF THE MAJOR CONCENTRATION CAMPS OF THE THIRD REICH

ers. However, an inquiry to the Ghetto Fighters House Museum in Israel disclaims all knowledge of the note. Could it have been a concoction or fantasy made to dupe collectors? Perhaps . . . but it surfaced years ago when this type of material had little value or interest to collectors. The very least that can be said about it is that it was made by a protesting victim.

Today this enigmatic note, with its

defiant and poignant message exists to give the lie to the canard that all Jews went to their end like lambs to the slaughter.

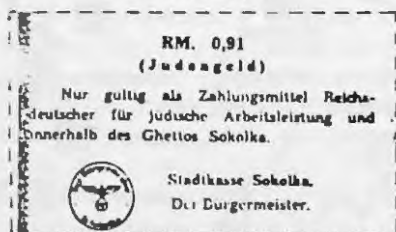
If any readers can shed light on this note or other unusual ghetto, concentration camp or displaced persons camp paper money I would be grateful to hear from them.

Dr. Alan York
Number One Main St.
East Hampton, New York 11937

More on World War II Ghetto Money

by Dr. Henry Fenigstein
Canada

SOKOLKA



BIELSK



Having read the very informative article about ghetto money by S.A. and B. Fellers (published in the April 1981 issue of *The Numismatist*), I would like to add a few notes.

The authors mentioned that, in addition to the paper money in the ghettos of Lodz-Litzmannstadt and Theresienstadt, there are known paper notes from Bielsk Podlaski and Sokolka. In the latter, one note printed on one side only was issued, perforated on the left side (probably issued in receipt books from which the notes were torn out) with the following inscription in seven lines: "R.M. O. 91 [Jewish Money] good only as way of payment by Germans for Jewish work [labor] with in the ghetto of Sokolka, The Treasury of Sokolka, The Mayor". The amount of RM. 0.91 [91 pfennigs] was probably the pay for a day's work during 1940-1941 before the German attack of June 22, 1941, on Soviet Russia. The notes from Bielsk were printed on both sides in two known varieties: 10 Kop. [kopeks, equivalent of groszy in Poland, pfennigs in German, and pennies in the United States], and 5 Rubel [rubles, equivalent of zloty, mark, or dollar]. The inscription on the front reads: "Town Administration of Bielsk 10 Kop. (respectively "5 Rubel") Jewish Money" in 3 lines, and on the back "This way of payment is valid in Jewish stores of Bielsk only. Tobien, The Mayor" in 5 lines. The fact that the value of both notes is in Russian currency indicates that they were printed after the German attack on Russia.

Reprinted with permission from *The Numismatist* (April 1982) and with the cooperation of Dr. Henry Fenigstein, a camp survivor, now a practicing psychiatrist in Toronto.



In their April article last year, the Fellers omitted describing the very interesting 10 PF. notes of Ghetto Litzmannstadt which are rarer than the set of six paper notes issued with the date of May 15, 1940, described very accurately by the Fellers. I refer to the small paper notes (44-50mm x 35-39mm) with the inscription in five lines, in German, printed on one side only, "Good for 10PF. in the Post Office of the Eldest [Chief Elder] of Jews in Litzmannstadt-Ghetto." There are two issues of these notes known: the first with the date 17, April, 1941, and the second with the date 15, May, 1944, both positioned in the left lower corner of the notes.

The first issue is known in three varieties: 1) Printing on a green background of a net composed of small Stars of David (similar to the six notes described by the Fellers, see *The Numismatist*, April 1981, p. 877), notes cut by hand; 2) no background, notes with consecutive numbers printed vertically on the left side reading from the bottom up, perforated, known with stamped facsimile of the heads of the ghetto post office (Jakubowicz, and, after him, Goldblum); and in violet color, or with Jakubowicz's signature by hand; and 3) similar to 2, but not perforated, without numbers, facsimile stamps or signatures.

This first issue was used probably because of a shortage of small change in the post office when the inhabitants of the ghetto were buying post-



age stamps or postcards. The smallest denomination large note readily available was in the amount of 50 PF. The then Nazi head of the ghetto, Han Biebow, who was known to have been a coin and stamp collector, prohibited the issue of 5 and 10 PF. ghetto coins. According to a letter from Chaim Rumkowski, dated June 16, 1942 (Nr.3119/br./42/Sch.), a 5 PF. and a 10 PF. coin of the same design were later authorized by Biebow, but both issues were quickly confiscated. The 5 PF. coin of this issue is known only in one example in a private collection in Argentina.

A second issue of the 10 PF. coin was accepted later by Biebow, after his orders were met for changes in size and design to make the coin smaller and different from the German 10PF. coin (see Biebow's letter dated October 13, 1942). In approximately December 1942, about 100,000 10 PF ghetto coins were minted from easily inflammable material (aircraft metal sheets similar to Israel's first 25 mils coins of 1948).

The second issue of the small paper note "Good for 10 PF.," showing



the date 15, May, 1944, is known in two varieties. Variety A shows the letter A at the top of the left corner of the rectangle within which is the five line inscription. No letter appears in the top left corner of the rectangle in variety B. Variety C of the first issue and variety A of the second issue are known with the word *MUSTER* overprinted in black, which translates as "specimen." Needless to say, these notes are the most rare.

While the reason for the first issue of April 17, 1942 seems quite rational, the reason for the second issue on May 15, 1944 seems questionable. Before the second issue the post of-

fice was officially selling not more than one 6 PF. postage stamp—at a cost of 10 PF. each—per person. In 1944, after almost two years of suspension, the postal contact of the Litzmannstadt ghetto was reopened. By this time, however, there were few inhabitants of the ghetto and the severe inflation rampant at the time (the price of the a two pound loaf of bread was approximately 300 marks) made a postage stamp the only item available for sale for 10 pfennigs. The reason for the issue of May 15, 1944 becomes even more questionable in light of the fact that very little mail is known to have left the Litzmannstadt ghetto after the middle of 1943.

Finally, as a philatelist and numismatist who lived in the Warsaw ghetto until its final liquidation in April 1943, and who collected philatelic and numismatic material while working in the Jewish hospital there, I would like to share my observation that, contrary to the information given by the Fellers, I do not remember seeing or hearing about any of the notes described as "illegally printed by the Jewish Authorities" in the Warsaw ghetto (Fellers, Figure 3). In my opinion, someone designed and printed them after the war to make money from naive collectors. I was a constant visitor in the post office of the Jewish district (Section) (SPDZ), and I had an extensive collection of postal material mailed to and from Warsaw and other ghettos. The crudely printed notes were, according to my knowledge, never described as being produced during the Holocaust in Warsaw.

Any exchange of information on coins and paper money issued during the Jewish persecution during the Holocaust (in the ghettos, concentration camps, etc.) will be appreciated.

Dr. H. Fenigstein
2787 Bathhurst St.
Toronto, Ontario M6B 3A2



Ghetto Money of the Nazi Holocaust

by Steven A. Feller
ANA 96212
and Barbara Feller



Twenty mark aluminum coin from the Lodz Ghetto, 1943. Note the use of the word "getto."

It never ceases to amaze people when they learn that several of the ghettos and concentration camps in Nazi Europe issued coins and currency. And the questions soon follow . . . Who issued the money? What does it look like? For what purpose was the money used? What is its symbolism? Ghetto money, despite its limited use, small circulation and relatively short life span provides a stark historical perspective on the Nazi holocaust which brought tragedy to so many lives.

Briefly put, the German plan for the elimination of the Jewish people included two stages. First, large ghettos were formed by the forced deportation of hundreds of thousands of European Jews from their homes to centrally located detention areas. From here, after a few weeks for some and several years for others, ghetto residents were transported to death camps located nearby.

Ghettos that issued money include Lodz and Warsaw in Poland, Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia, and Cremona in Italy.

LODZ GHETTO

Poland was conquered by Germany in September, 1939. By February 8, 1940, the first large ghetto in Poland was established at Lodz, later renamed Litzmannstadt by the Germans. Between February and May of 1940 approximately 160,000 Jews were imprisoned in the polish ghetto of Litzmannstadt. A fence topped by barbed wire, was completed around the ghetto by May 1, 1940, effectively isolating it from the outside world.¹



One mark note from the Lodz Ghetto, 1940.

The Lodz ghetto was “ruled” by a council of Jewish elders known as the Judenrat and led by Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski. As head of the Judenrat, Rumkowski was given the title “Aelteste der Juden” or “Chief Elder of the Jews.”

Against this historical backdrop, currency was prepared and dated May 15, 1940, in denominations of $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 marks. Photos depict the front and back of the one mark note. The front, carrying the German text “Quittung Über Eine Mark, Der Aelteste der Juden in Litzmannstadt, M. Rumkowski, Litzmannstadt den 15 Mai 1940” translates as “Receipt for One Mark, The Chief Elder of the Jews in Litzmannstadt, M. Rumkowski, Litzmannstadt, May 15, 1940.” The back of the note repeats the statement that this is a receipt for one mark and includes a severe warning against counterfeiting. Each of the notes carries the same text and varies only to indicate the denomination.

A clue to the function of the Litzmannstadt currency is found in the use of the word Quittung, or “receipt.” Upon entering the ghetto, people were given these receipts in exchange for German and Polish banknotes. Jews were prohibited to have any other form of money.²

During the years 1942 and 1943 the Lodz ghetto was partially emptied by deportation of the inhabitants to the death camp at Chelmno,

approximately thirty miles away. During this upheaval the Lodz ghetto initiated its own coinage. Aluminum and magnesium coins were struck at the request of the Chief Elder and approved by Hans Biebow, the German head of the ghetto.³ Magnesium metal was obtained from downed planes.⁴ These coins are historically significant for their highly symbolic design as well as the use of the German spelling of ghetto. Coins valued at ten pfennig were struck in 1942. In 1943, due to inflation, 5, 10 and 20 mark coins were also issued. Lodz ghetto coins are rarer than the notes. Collectors are advised by Arlie Slabaugh, in his book *Prisoner of War Monies and Medals*, that the coins have since been restruck several times.⁵

WARSAW GHETTO

In direct contrast with Lodz, the famous Warsaw Ghetto, scene of the heroic uprising of 1943, did not issue an official money. In the Spring of 1941, however, illegal currency was printed by the Jewish postal authorities (SPDZ) under the control of the Jewish Council in Warsaw (RZwW) to alleviate a shortage of small change when purchasing postage.⁶ Six different denominations from 5 to 50 groszy were printed. The notes were crudely printed from hand-cut linoleum or wood plates⁷



A fifty Groszy note from the Warsaw Ghetto, 1941. These were illegally printed by the Jewish authorities in the ghetto to alleviate a shortage of small change. Note that 18 (chai). Stars appear in the field.

showing the very poignant symbolism of the SS flame guarding the sea of Jews imprisoned behind barbed wire. This money is a moving commentary on the sad state of the ghetto. The few notes that survived the war are printing proofs since the currency never came into actual circulation.⁸

THERESIENSTADT GHETTO

Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia, is located approximately thirty-five miles from Prague. Reinhard Heydrich, head of the notorious gestapo, personally established this ghetto to "solve" the political dilemma of what to do with various groups of



One krone note from the Theresienstadt Ghetto, 1943. This series of notes is known as "Moses Crowns."

Jews such as war veterans, people of means, office holders, and the elderly. Due to political considerations, simple deportation was not a viable solution.

Nazi officials of the Theresienstadt ghetto solved these problems by creating for the outside world an illusion of well being. But in actual fact, by 1942 the ghetto was crammed with more than 85,000 people in an area planned to accommodate 7,000 to 8,000 people. In addition to the severely overcrowded conditions at Theresienstadt, the ghetto served as a way station to the infamous camp at Auschwitz. Of the 130,000 people who passed through the "privileged" gates of Theresienstadt, only 17,000 survived until its liberation in May, 1945."

The currency issued at Theresienstadt was elaborately designed. Notes were issued in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 kronen values. Inscriptions on these notes are identical to those printed in Lodz except for denominations and the name of the ghetto's Chief Elder, Jacob Edelstein. This money is commonly called "Moses Crowns," named for the striking vignette of Moses holding and pointing to the ten commandments.¹⁰

The detailed designs on the Theresienstadt notes are consistent with the overall farce that was perpetrated at the ghetto. The notes were kept in a "bank" to be used in local "stores." Unfortunately, the Red Cross, for whose benefit the charade was played, did not visit every day.

An interesting sidelight to this commentary is mention of the money in two novels; *Holocaust* by Gerald Green¹¹ and *War and Remembrance* by Herman Wouk.¹²



A twenty lire note from the Cremona Internment Camp, year unknown.

CREMONA INTERNMENT CAMP, ITALY

While not a ghetto by strict definition, Cremona, an internment camp situated in northern Italy, did issue currency for use by Jewish inmates, made distinctive by an overprint of the Star of David on the regular camp currency. These notes, issued in seven lire denominations from ½ to 50 lire, were also used as receipts.¹³ All examples of this issue have the same basic design. Slahaugh's book indicates that although the words *campo concentramento* appear on the notes, Cremona was not a concentration camp in the German sense.¹⁴

The rare coins of Lodz are listed in standard works on world coins. The new sixth edition of the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* lists them under the heading for Poland,¹⁵ and the *World Coin Catalogue* includes them under the listing for Germany.¹⁶ No ghetto currency is listed in the new third edition of the standard currency reference by Pick.¹⁷ However, the Lodz and Theresienstadt notes are listed in a separate volume written in German by Pick and Carl Siemsen.¹⁸ These authors reveal that two other Eastern European ghettos issued some extremely rare currency: Bielsk in the Soviet Union, which issued a ten kopeck note and Sokolka in Poland, which issued a 0.91 mark note.¹⁹ At present the authors of this paper are unaware of other details of these issues.

STEVE AND BARB FELLER share teaching as their profession. Steve teaches physics at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Barb is certified to teach elementary and junior high and has taught in their native state of New York, as well as Attleboro, Massachusetts, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In addition to holding membership in the ANA, Steve is also a member of American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA) and the Society of Paper Money Collectors (SPMC).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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NOTES

1. Mendal Grossman, *With a Camera in the Ghetto* (New York: Schocken Books, 1977), p. 1.
2. Arlie Slabaugh, *Prisoner of War Monies and Medals* (Chicago: Hewitt Brothers, 1966), p. 37.
3. *Ibid*, p. 38.
4. There seems to be some confusion as to the source of these airplanes. Slabaugh claims that the planes were German, while Morty Zerder in an article "The Holocaust and Numismatics" in Preger and Oppenheim's first *Inventory Circular*, May 22, 1980, says that the planes were Allied.
5. Slabaugh, p. 38.
6. Dr. S. Kronenberg of Skillman, New Jersey, private communication 1971.
7. Dr. S. Kronenberg of Skillman, New Jersey, private communication 1971 and Dr. F. Wallner of Vienna, Austria, private communication 1969.
8. Dr. F. Wallner of Vienna, Austria, private communication 1969.
9. Nora Levin, *The Holocaust* (New York: Schocken Books, 1973), pp. 476-493.
10. Slabaugh, pp. 41-42.
11. Gerald Green, *Holocaust* (New York: Bantam Books, 1978), pp. 234-235.
12. Herman Wouk, *War and Remembrance*, Vol. II, (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1978), p. 795.
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18. Albert Pick and Carl Siemsen, *Das Lagergeld der Konzentrations-und D.P.-Lager 1933-1945*, (München: Baltenberg Verlag, 1976) pp. 19-22.
19. Pick and Siemsen, pp. 19 and 21.

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NETHERLANDS CAMPS

continued from page 26

Three series of notes were used at Westerbork in denominations of 10, 25, 50 and 100 cents. They are inscribed on the notes as **SERIE AA**, **BB**, and **CC**. The 100 cent note is known in a rare variety, printed here for the first time anywhere *without* any series designation or serial number.

MORE HOLOCAUST NUMISMATICS

During 1983, *The Shekel* will print additional material uncovered for this anthology.

Publishers are invited to contact AINA for any proposed book projects.



OPERATION BERNHARD

**By Morty Zerder, NLG
Long Island, N.Y.**



It is known fact that the strength of a country is measured in the quality of its currency. If it is accepted without question there is no problem; otherwise the country may disintegrate. For this reason counterfeiting is so dangerous a crime to a country.

As the war progressed, one of the officers in the German army had a brilliant idea. Why not destroy the credibility of the English pound. But, how??? Counterfeiting, of course. Germany, as a country, had all the facilities for manufacturing money. Why not English pounds? The idea bloomed full in the mind of one Bernhard Kreuger and OPERATION BERNHARD was born. A section of the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was set aside and put under top security. The countries under the German yoke were combed for engravers and others familiar with money making. Eventually about 120 people were involved, many being Jews. Plates were prepared and special watermarked paper produced. The results was a note better than that produced by the British. In the case of a good many of the fancy lines around the words Bank of England and the value, the lines were complete and proper. On all genuine British notes there are gaps in the flourish. It was this attempt to

outdo the British that was the giveaway of the notes.

The notes were produced in large quantities and many were dropped over England. Many were successfully cashed, not only in England but in Switzerland and other neutral nations. The counterfeit money was also used to buy strategic supplies as well as to pay the spies that Germany employed. The most famous was Cicero who worked out of the Turkey office of the British Embassy and was paid more than 300,000 pounds, all counterfeit. He did not discover this until he had escaped to Brazil and could not use it. A film, *Five Fingers* with James Mason told the story so well.

U.S. Counterfeits Planned

In any event, the operation was so successful that, as the end of the war neared, plans were set to produce United States 20 and 50 dollar bills. It is believed that the 20 dollar bill plates were actually prepared and may yet still exist. With the approaching Allied Armies, instructions went out to close down the operation and send the workers to Auschwitz. The camp director refused and abandoned the camp. It

continued on page 50

THE MAUTHAUSEN DEATH CAMP AND ITS PAPER MONEY

by DR. ALAN YORK

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During World War One, the Austro-Hungarian military authorities established a large Prisoner-of-War camp near the small town of Mauthausen. Nearby streams the Danube, in the region of the city of Enns in the province of Lower Austria. What was originally a cavalry training center served as the largest P.O.W. camp in Austria, mainly for Italian prisoners captured in the Alpine campaigns.

Paper money in many varieties were issued at the World War One Camp Mauthausen which must not be confused with those issued by the Nazis. These World War One notes all bear the coat of arms of the Em-

pire: Its crowned double-eagle surrounded by the inscription "K.u.K. Kriegsgefangenenlager. Mauthausen." in classic Germanic type. This inscription translates: "Imperial and Royal Prisoner of War Camp, Mauthausen."

On March 13th, 1938, only three weeks after the Austrian "Anschluss," Heinrich Himmler, the dread Reichsführer of the S.S., visited the stone quarries adjacent to the old P.O.W. camp. He decreed that Mauthausen was to be the main Austrian death camp according to Heydrich's guidelines for the "final solution of the Jewish Question." A cadre of officers and prisoners

Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York.



World War One Mauthausen note not to be confused with Nazi concentration camp notes of the Mauthausen death camp.

moved from the Dachau concentration camp started work three months later to establish the Austrian equivalent of the "model" concentration camp of Dachau, complete with execution areas and crematoria.

There was no direct railway link to the camp. Prisoners sent to Mauthausen debarked from cattle cars and endured a forced march to the camp under blows and whips of the sadistic S.S. guards and even attacks by half-starved guard dogs. Local children were encouraged to throw rocks at the poor unfortunates, and to taunt them with: "You will all soon be going up the chimney on the hill."

On arrival at the forbidding gates to the camp they were often beaten again. Once within, all were stripped naked and left standing outdoors, not permitted to squat or lie down, for a period of 24-hours during which they were shaved of all body hair and hosed down. This initial ritual went on year round, even in freezing winter weather. Many who had not been fed since leaving Romania or Poland died before being assigned to barracks.

The "Parachutist's Cliff"

The 186 stone steps in the quarry became infamous, known as the "death steps" because prisoners were forced to carry 60-pound slabs of stone up these steps at a quick march under blows from the rifle butts of the guards. Many committed suicide by jumping off these cliffs to end misery created by the "kapos" and the S.S. guards. This spot was laughingly referred to by the guards as the "parachutists' cliff."

Possibly some readers, insulated by time and the safety of an ocean between America and Europe may think of this situation in abstract terms affecting some Europeans only. They must now be made aware

that it was to the Mauthausen death camp that American, Canadian, and English war prisoners were taken for execution. S.S. General Kaltenbrunner instituted at Mauthausen a special execution center for recaptured escaped prisoners of war, particularly flying officers. According to his infamous "*Kugel erlass*"—"bullet decree") which was circulated to all army, Gestapo, and prison commands, escaped prisoners were to be specially "processed" at Mauthausen: executed in secret.

The Murder of Allied P.O.W.s

The unfortunate Allied prisoner-of-war was brought into a medical examining room, ostensibly to have his height, weight, and medical history recorded. As his height was measured with a lowering measuring stick touched to the top of his head, a bullet from a secret pistol in the wall was discharged into his neck, killing him instantly. He was then listed on the official records as "escaped, but as yet uncaptured." Execution of prisoners-of-war no doubt also occurred in other camps, but it is at Mauthausen that the execution apparatus and detailed listing of those killed in this manner exists to this date.

As the war progressed and the needs of the German war machine became more acute, the regular camp guards were sent into combat. They were replaced with willing substitute guards of fascist sympathies from Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Romania, and the Baltic States.

Mauthausen was a "mother camp" to many sub-camps and slave labor factories. The prisoners labored primarily in aircraft and jet production in the Daimler-Puch factories in Pergau, in Steiermark. Notes of the Mauthausen death camp should be examined carefully. Occasionally one is found with the rubber-



Type 2. Camp notes of the Nazi concentration camp of Mauthausen in Austria.

stamped validating cachet on it: "Loibl Tunnel." Those who survived the stone quarries were considered fit to work on the road and tunnel construction project at the Loibl Mountain Pass near Kärnten. The notes were used to encourage extra work from the prisoners. Extra rations and toiletries could be obtained in exchange for these notes.

Many well known political and military prisoners died at Mauthausen, including the son of Admiral Horthy, the Regent of Hungary, and General Karbyshev, the Soviet hero of a mass execution of over 200 prisoners-of-war, frozen to death by water hoses in sub-zero temperatures.

Thousands of Austrian and Hungarian Jews perished here in a typhus-ridden open tent city. Thousands of Spanish refugees who fled the Franco regime into what became Vichy France and who were transferred to Mauthausen were also killed here.

Records of the sub-camp at Gusen testify that over 33,000 inmates perished there. The total number of dead will never be known from all the other sub camps and the "mother camps," but it is obviously in the hundreds of thousands.

The scrip paper money of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp and its sub-camps are divided into three basic types, all on unwater-marked paper.

The first type, without date, in the value of 0.50 RM is listed by Pick and Siemsen with no description. Not having seen this type, but having enormous respect for these outstanding researchers, I will list it here. It is undated.

The second type is printed on a soft paper 75mm. wide and 54mm. As with all scrip money, these notes can vary in size according to who trimmed the printed sheets. The inscription reads:

'Konzentrationslager Mauthausen
PRÄMIENSCHHEIN'

Below are eight parallel ruled lines as an anti-counterfeiting device upon which the prisoner's number was supposed to be written, but which was rarely done.

Below: the nominal value of the note; 'WERT: RM (and numerical valuation).

At the lower left of the note are initials and numbers: "KL M 1/2-4-43-".

Three values of this second issue are known:

RM 1 — on brownish paper

RM 2 — on red paper.

RM 5 — on yellowish paper

This issue of notes is found both with and without rubberstamped cachet overprints "SS-Kantineverwaltung" (S.S. Canteen administration) and an included date stamp. They are also found undated. Also known are these notes with the previously



Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York

Type 3. Mauthausen Nazi concentration camp note with overprinted dated rubber stamp cachet.

mentioned rubberstamped cachet "Loibl tunnel" for use on the road and tunnel construction sub-camp at the Loibl Mountain Pass.

A third type, and later issue of the same size, is found on a lightweight card stock type of paper of a bluish gray color. As with all of these notes, they are printed on the cheapest type of paper available, and the colors can vary greatly due to the natural process of aging and exposure to light, etc. It has the exact same typographical layout at the last issue of notes at the Auschwitz camp.

This third issue is printed:

"Prämienschein über RM.1-

Konzentrationslager Mauthausen" on a background of many parallel ruled horizontal lines. In the center of the note is a 32.5mm circle with the initials "D. St." (date stamp) in it. At the lower left is the inscription: KL/101-8.44/500,000.

Similar inscriptions and printing faces are found on the last issues of scrip in the concentration camps of Auschwitz, Flossenbürg, and the woman's camp at Ravensbrück. This would indicate a uniform administrative pattern and common origin of printing for these notes. KL101 could not therefore be a camp number but is probably a Nazi catalogue number for this type of item. 8.44 would indicate the date of printing (August 1944) and the 500,000, the amount printed.

Anyone who can add to knowledge of these ephemeral items from the saddest period in history are invited to contact Dr. Alan York, Number One Main Street, East Hampton, New York, 11937.

All communications will be answered promptly and credits will be given in any forthcoming catalogue of these notes.

OPERATION BERNHARD continued from page 46

was captured by the Americans, many of whom took the notes home as souvenirs. Most were dumped in Swiss lakes and only recently recovered. There are 4 known denominations — 5, 10, 20 and 50 pound. It is rumored that other values were planned.

As the money was finally spotted as counterfeit, the Bank of England quietly withdrew the entire issue and substituted a new currency.

Morty Zerder is a teacher of science at a Brooklyn religious institution. He has actively sought numismatic material of the Holocaust for many years.

DIRECTORY OF KNOWN ISSUES OF CONCENTRATION CAMP AND DISPLACED PERSONS CENTERS OF WORLD WAR II

By George Gilbert



The only known photograph of the distribution of money in any concentration camp or ghetto is this photograph attributed to the Lodz Ghetto (Poland). Photo from WIZO Archives, courtesy Dr. Robert S. Webber.

AUSTRIA

Mauthausen

Varieties in .50, 1, 2 and 5 RM.

See pages 11 and 47.

See also P/S: pgs. 31, 32



Reference Collection
of Dr. Alan York.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Theresienstadt (Teresin)

1, 2 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 kronen

See pages 13, 27, 32 and 43.

See also P/S: pgs. 21, 22

See also Shekel, Vol. III, No. 2.

Photo courtesy
Mort Zerder.



GERMANY

Buchenwald

Varieties of .50, 1, 2 and 3 RM including Aussenkommando, SS-KO Rottleberode, SS-Arbeitskommando and issues in red and purple rubber stamp overprint.

See page 8.

See also P/S: pgs. 25, 26, 27, 28.



Zerder photo.

Abbreviations:

G Gulden
Pfg. Pfennig
RM Reichmark

P/S Book: "Das Lagergeld der Konzentrations — und D.P. Lager — 1933-1945", Von Albert Pick und Carl Siemsen. See page 22.

Dachau

Varieties in .50, 1, 2 and 3 RM including Kantinenverwaltung and a variety printed in Oct. 1944.

See page 9.

See also P/S: pg. 28



Bohlen (Brabag) Sachsen



.50, 2 RM

See P/S: pg. 23

See P/S: pg. 24

Flossenberg

.50, 1 RM

See page 9

See also P/S: pg. 29

Gross-Rosen

.50, 1 RM

See page 10

See also P/S: pg. 29, 30

Haselhorst-Nord

.50, 1 RM

See page 10

See also P/S: pg. 30

Lichtenburg

1 Pfg

See P/S: page 18

Neuengamme



Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York.

.50, 1 RM

See page 12.

See also P/S: pgs. 32, 33

Nordhausen (Mittelbau)



Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York.

.01, .50, 1, 2, 5, 10 RM

See page 12.

See also P/S: pg. 33

Oranienburg



Reference Collection
of Dr. Alan York.

5, 10, 50 Pfg., 1, 2 RM
Counterfeit British pounds
See page 12.
See also P/S: pgs. 17, 34, 35, 36

Ravensbrück



Reference Collection
of Dr. Alan York.

Varieties in .50 and 1 RM
See page 12.
See also P/S: pgs. 35, 36

Stutthof

50 Pfg and 1 RM
See page 13.
See also P/S: pgs. 37

HOLLAND

Amersfoort



Reference Collection
of Dr. Alan York.

10, 25 cents
1, 2½ G
See pages 7, 24.
See also P/S: pg. 23

Herzogenbusch (Vught)



Reference Collection
of Dr. Alan York.

10 and 25 cents; 1, 2, 2½ and 10G.
See pages 10, 13 and 25.
See also P/S: pgs. 30, 31.

Westerbork

10, 25, 50 and 100 cents.
See pages 13 and 25.

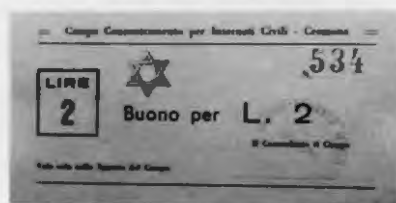
ITALY

Bolzano (Bozen)



2, 5, 10, 50, 500 lire
See page 17.
See P/S: page 25.

Cremona



.50, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 lire
See pages 20 and 44

Reference Collection
of Dr. Alan York.

NORWAY

Grine

See page 9.

POLAND

Auschwitz

Varieties in .50, 1, 3 RM
See page 7.
See also P/S: pgs. 23, 24

Bielsk Podlaski



10 kopecks
See page 38
See also P/S: pgs. 19

Lodz (Litzmannstadt)



Photo courtesy Mort Zerder.

.50, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 RM (notes)
Varieties in 5, 10 and 20 pfg. (coins)
See pages 10 and 41
See also P/S: pgs. 19, 20

Sokolka

.91 RM
See page 38.
See also P/S: pgs. 21

Warsaw

See pages 35 and 42.
See also Shekel, Vol. I, No. 3; Vol. XII, No. 3.

DISPLACED PERSON CAMPS

AUSTRIA

International Refugee Organization issues: 1, 5, 10, 20 "units"

UNRRA issues: 1, 5, 10, 20 "units"

American Joint Distribution: 1 "unit"

See page 14.

Wegscheid

1, 5, 10, 20.

See P/S: pg. 42

GERMANY

Deggendorf

5, 10, 25, 50 cents

1, 5 dollars. See page 14.

U.S. Zone Money (Employment Board for Jewish DPs)

(1947) 1,500 (value unknown)

See P/S: pg. 40. See page 16.

CYPRUS



From the original Sidney L. Olson collection.

British internment centres: 1, 2, 5 shillings

See page 16.

MAKE 1983 YOUR YEAR TO VISIT ISRAEL



ISRAEL

American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.

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Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I announce AINA's 15th Annual Study Tour to Israel which is scheduled for March 3rd to March 17th, 1983.

Now is the time to see the Holy Land...this tiny land, with its glorious past and exciting present, never ceases to amaze the world with its extraordinary courage and daring.

Our tour program will be very exciting this year. One of the highlights will be a tour of the Israel Aircraft Industry and, if at all possible, a visit to Lebanon but this depends entirely upon the political climate at the time. We will also visit the Shaare Zedek Hospital.


Among the many gala events being planned will be a reception by the Mayor of Jerusalem, The Honorable Teddy Kollek.

We are also planning an optional trip to Egypt which will include the Pyramids and the Sphinx.

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We look forward to welcoming you when you join us next March.

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